ment for stepping up the trade turnover between the two countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during the course of the recent visit to India by a Vietnamese delegation led by their Deputy Minister of Commerce, discussions were held between the two sides. One of the aspects discussed related to the need to take necessary measures to enhance the trade turnover between the two countries.

Strategy enabling India in increasing competitiveness in World Market

1791. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to adopt a new strategy for enabling India to become competitive in the world market; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) A series of trade policy reforms have been initiated by the Government for increasing export competitiveness in world markets, notably provision of export-linked imports at near international prices and reduction of import licensing.

Setting up of working group panel for Intellectual Property Rights

1792. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Working Group Panel has recently been set up for the Intellectual Property Rights rationalisation; harmonisation and modernisation as reportedly disclosed by Mr. MIHALY FICSOR, the D. G. of World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 10th November, 1994;

(b) what is the purpose/major task before this Group and in what manner co-ordination of the legislations in different countries relating to IPRs especially in Trade Related Intellectual Rights would be achieved;

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard and to the reported *suggestion of Mr. FICSOR urging India* to become a signatory to the Paris convention; and

(d) in what manner the Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) and Madrid Conventions would help Indian inventors and the owner of trade mark in getting the inventions/trade marks patented world-wide in a simple, transparent, efficient and economic way; details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) In the context of agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights of the GATT Agreement and in order to establish a mutually supportive relationship between the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the General Assembly of WIPO, in its meetings, held between September 26 to October 4, 1944 decided to establish an adhoc working group open to all Member states of WIPO :—

(i) to advise and co-operate with the Director General of WIPO in his contacts with the competent organs of GATT/WTO;

(ii) to discuss matters concerning possible co-operation between WIPO and WTO; and

(iii) to consider the establishment of an adhoc informal WIPO/GATT-WTO Consultation Group on all matters concering possible co-operation between WIPO and WTO.

(c) On some occasions in the past, the World Intellectual Property Organisation have pointed out the advantages which would be available to India on acceeding to the Paris Convention. However, no decisions have been taken on this issue.

(d) Does not arise as membership of the Paris convention is a prerequisite for joining the PCT and the Madrid Agreement.

Export Intensive Area Sub-Plan Scheme

1793. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop export intensive area sub-plan scheme in the non-metropolitan centres having export potential;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the names of places that will be developed in Tamil Nadu under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) :